

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
May 12, 2020

School Board Members Present:

Alison Notte, President
Joanne Pencak, Clerk
Brittany Cavacas
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Kevin Kiefaber
Matthew Olewnik
Charlene Seward
Erin Shimp
Cathy Solsaa
Haley Lassen, Student Representative
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative

Also Present:

Superintendent Dave Wolk
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
CFO Mary Alma Noonan
Incoming Superintendent Bill Olsen
Director of Technology Patricia Aigner
Director of BG&T Michael Derevjanik
Felicia Allard
Pati Beaumont
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Scott Corbett
Susanne Engels
Jessica Henderson
Sharon Napolitano
Loren Pepe
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Andrew Skarzynski
Jen Wigmore

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Notte noted all commissioners are in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of the Agenda - The agenda was approved with the following modifications: Item B (Ratification of the AFSCME Contract Addendum) and Item D (Non-Aligned Employees Salary – 2020-21) removed from the consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Pencak/Goldberg at 6:34 pm to adjourn to executive session with Superintendent Wolk, Incoming Superintendent Olsen, Assistant Superintendent Bliss, Mary Alma Noonan and Michael Derevjanik for the purpose of discussing contractual matter, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage.

MOTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion passed unanimously.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of executive session at 7:21 pm.

Motion by Cavacas H./Shimp to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

MOTION: CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the April 27, 2020 Staff Relations Committee Meeting.
- The minutes of the April 28, 2020 Special School Board Meeting.
- The minutes of the April 30, 2020 Finance/Planning Committee Meeting.
- Personnel Memo #610 – Attached.
- STC Perkins Grant Approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of the AFSCME Contract Addendum (removed from consent agenda.)

Motion by Pencak/Seward authorize the Superintendent to execute the AFSCME Contract Addendum as recommended by the committee.

**MOTION:
AFSCME
CONTRACT
ADDENDUM**

Roll Call Vote: Cavacas, H. – Yes, Solsaa – Yes, Seward – Yes, Kiefaber – Yes, Dages – No, Goldberg – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Cavacas, B. – Yes, Olewnik – Yes, Pencak – Yes. Motion carried.

Non-Aligned Employees Salary – 2020-21 (removed from the consent agenda.)

Motion by Pencak/Seward to approve 2.75% salary increases for Non-Aligned Employees for FY21.

**MOTION: NON-
ALIGNED
SALARIES**

Roll Call Vote: Cavacas, H. – No, Solsaa – Yes, Cavacas, B. – Yes, Olewnik – Yes, Seward – Yes, Kiefaber – Yes, Dages – No, Goldberg – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Pencak – Yes. Motion carried.

Bids for computer equipment were reviewed by Patricia Aigner, Mary Alma Noonan and Melissa Connor. It was noted that Chromebooks are in short supply and only one of four bids for Chromebooks met the correct specifications (it is the second lowest and recommended bid.)

**APPROVAL OF
BIDS**

Motion by Dages/Seward that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$36,552.77 for 19 ZBook Computers from Ormsbys to be effective for fiscal year 2020.

**MOTION:
ZBOOKS/STC**

Discussion revolved around the quantity of ZBooks to be purchased (19.)

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Shimp/Seward that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$31,906 for 14 27” iMac computers from Apple to be effective for fiscal year 2020 for Stafford Technical Center.

**MOTION:
IMACS/STC**

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dages/Cavacas that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$73,275 for 250 Chromebooks from CDW-G to be effective for fiscal year 2020.

**MOTION:
CHROMEBOOKS**

Motion passed unanimously.

School Bus Bid Approvals Delay – Superintendent Wolk and Michael Derevjanik recommended, given the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, to delay purchasing buses related to the 10 year plan until summer or early fall. The condition of buses is appropriate for short term. It will take about 6 weeks to obtain buses (one 71 passenger bus and one ADA compliant busy, totaling about \$200,000) once they are ordered. Buses have been budgeted and bids have been obtained, but a recommendation letter has not been completed at this time. Currently, a limited number of buses is being utilized for food service delivery. 60,000 meals have been served to date.

**SCHOOL BUS
PURCHASE DELAY**

Communications – Public Input – Assistant Superintendent Bliss noted that there are currently no questions from the available chat que and explained the process for the public to reach out to the Board during the meeting held via *Zoom*. President Notte noted that email addresses, phone numbers and addresses are available (on the RCPS web site) if anyone would like to contact the Board by other means.

PUBLIC INPUT

President Notte noted that she received a letter from the New Neighbors Club late this evening and forwarded it to Board Members. Student Representative Haley Lassen read the letter, which spoke of the lack of progress made with a District Wide Equity Council and requested to extend flying the Black Lives Matters Flag at Rutland High School until certain conditions are met.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICAT-
ION**

Motion by Solsaa/Kiefaber to suspend the rules.

**MOTION:
SUSPEND THE
RULES**

Roll Call Vote: Cavacas, B. – Yes, Cavacas, H. – No, Solsaa – Yes, Kiefaber – Yes, Seward – No, Dages – Yes, Goldberg – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Olewnik – Yes, Pencak – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Solsaa/Kiefaber to approve the request from the New Neighbors Club and extend flying the Black Lives Matter Flag until three conditions are met: a new proposal is developed, reviewed by the RHS Administration and Superintendent, and presented to the Board of School Commissioners.

**MOTION:
BLACK LIVES
MATTER FLAG
EXTENSION**

Discussion included concerns regarding extending the flying of the Black Lives Matter Flag. The perception of looking at things one sided and the original agreement were noted. Clarification of the date of the 400th day (May 15, 2020 – the flag currently flying,) issues surrounding the delay of meeting with students, the plan to meet virtually with students during Memorial Day week and allowances made during the COVID 19 Pandemic were discussed. Progress made around the development of an Equity Council was reviewed and includes: GIN Conference focus, implicit bias training with Administration and the Board, Action Plan steps, a group developed at RHS who are studying issues around equity (they have been working throughout the year) and meetings with Administration and the NAACP. Appreciation for student voice and policy development were noted.

President Notte called the question.

Commissioner Solsaa requested to speak. Due to the digital meeting format (*Zoom*) President Notte noted that she had missed her request from the floor and allowed Commissioner Solsaa's input which included honoring the students' request is an opportunity to show support and let them know that their voices are heard.

Roll Call Vote: Cavacas, H. – No, Solsaa – Yes, Cavacas, B. – No, Goldberg – Yes, Seward – No, Kiefaber – Yes, Dages – Yes, Shimp – No, Olewnik – Yes, Pencak – Yes. Motion carried.

School Program Update – Student Representatives Report – Rutland Middle School is planning for year-end events through remote lenses (webinar memorial ceremony, ESP enrichment and Student of the 4th Quarter and Year Ceremonies.) Stafford Technical virtual events were noted (National Technical Honor Society and Awards.) Stafford Technical Center Summer Camps have been canceled due to the difficulty of meeting State Safety Guidelines. At Rutland High School, the GIN Conference (April 30, 2020) and final exams (June 9, 10 & 11, 2020) were noted.

**STUDENT REPS.
REPORT**

End of the Year Update – Superintendent Wolk noted regular updates that have been sent to the Board and work (remote learning, food service) that has been highlighted and showcased by VPR, WCAX and the Rutland Herald. The last day of school and graduation (to be held digitally) will be June 11, 2020. Teacher In-service will be held June 12 & 16, 2020. Permission from the State to convert three snow days to professional development days was received. Incoming Superintendent Olsen advised that we have been waiting for May 8, 2020 guidance from the State, but expected that end of the year events would not be live. Planning for alternatives to honor and celebrate students has been taking place. He noted that the Class of 2020 has been extremely positive and is the “Class with a vision.” Student Representative Haley Lassen explained the process for selecting student speakers for graduation and announced that

**END OF YEAR
UPDATE**

Matthew Creed and Maya Sobel were selected as speakers for the Class of 2020. Stephanie Schaffer, Class of 2014, will be the commencement speaker. Incoming Superintendent Olsen advised that a videographer has been commissioned for graduation, caps, gowns and lawn signs are being delivered to graduating seniors, seniors are asked to send pictures of themselves in their cap and gowns – this will be part of the video presentation that will air at 6:00 pm on PEGTV on June 11, 2020. Senior Awards (June 10, 2020) and Underclass Awards (June 3, 2020) will also air on PEGTV.

**END OF YEAR
UPDATE CONT.**

Assistant Superintendent Bliss advised of three questions in que related to graduation that were answered with the information presented. There was also a question related to having live events if guidance from the Governor’s Office is changed. It was noted that safety concerns would prevail and that inviting the Class of 2020 for inclusion in the 2021 Ceremony, as well as the Classes of 1970 and 1971 were being considered.

Central office Reports – Superintendent Wolk noted his appreciation for the 50th Class Celebration and is looking forward to it, personally. He spoke of the seamless transition with Administration, noting Bill Olsen’s current involvement with State and Regional Superintendents’ Associations, as well as Greg Schillinger’s involvement at the high school level. He advised of work and concern around curriculum, professional development, health and wellness of students and staff, special education reimbursement, PreK, budget, summer meals, summer programs and fall and winter sports – these are the topics of Superintendents’ discussions. Assistant Superintendent Bliss added that we are planning on running Summer Tapestry and EPIC, but capacity will be greatly diminished. We are trying to partner as much as possible. Attendance has been excellent, but some students have struggled to engage remotely. To allow us to react and be as nimble as possible, we are looking at multiple scenarios for fall, including: remote learning, everyone in and hybrid or split scheduling. We are looking at this through a lens of health and well-being, teaching and learning structure and daily operations. Discussion included options for receiving feedback from staff, students and families and alternatives and decision making for end of year options.

**CENTRAL
OFFICE –
SUPERINTEN-
DENT REPORT**

Committee Reports – President Notte advised that a tentative schedule for Committee Meetings was distributed. The proposed original schedule, utilizing fourth Tuesdays did not provide enough time, so second, third and fourth Tuesdays were incorporated. She advised that liaisons would be connected with respective building administrators in hopes of building relationships.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS –
SCHEDULE**

Commissioner Pencak reviewed topics from the April 30, 2020 Finance/Planning Committee Meeting (duties, strategic planning, budget, funding structure, new findings and calendar.)

**FINANCE/PLAN-
NING**

Commissioner Goldberg noted that the Staff Relations Committee would be planning ahead for an early start for negotiations with all bargaining units.

**STAFF
RELATIONS**

Old Business – None.

OLD BUSINESS

New Business – The Administrative Team and Board thanked Interim Superintendent Wolk and expressed appreciation for his extraordinary leadership in an unprecedented time.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Olewnik noted that May 1st was School Principal’s Day and acknowledged Principals for their work on behalf of kids.

Motion by Pencak/Cavacas to adjourn at 9:13 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dave Wolk, Superintendent

DATE: May 8, 2020

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMO **NO. 610** dated **May 8, 2020**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Felicia Allard	Assistant Director/STC	6/30/2020
David Blankenbaker	Mathematics/RMS	6/30/2020
Emily Burlett	Special Educator/PPLC	6/30/2020
Valerie Clark	Elementary/NW	6/30/2020
Pamela Hamilton	Elementary/RIS	6/30/2020
Leah Henry-Beauchamp	Special Educator/RHS	6/30/2020

2. Administrative Transfer/Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Kathryn Bosnich	Assistant Director/STC	\$115,360.00	7/1/2020
Justine Ruhlin	Assistant Principal/RIS	\$105,489.00	7/1/2020

3. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Laura Aprilliano	Elementary/NE	\$65,193.00	8/20/2020
Erica Caetano	Mathematics/RMS	\$55,880.00	8/20/2020
Erica Coloutti	School Counselor/RMS	\$63,330.00	8/20/2020
Krista Desabrais	General Education/PPLC	\$65,193.00	8/20/2020
Michael Dinsmore	Special Educator/RHS	\$65,193.00	8/20/2020
Alison Josselyn	Special Educator/NE	\$40,978.00	8/20/2020
Samantha Hamilton	Elementary/RIS	\$42,841.00	8/20/2020
Beth Ann Hughes	Elementary/RIS	\$67,055.00	8/20/2020
Kelly Hutt Vater	Integration Specialist/NE	\$57,742.00	8/20/2020
Terri Isidro	STEM Teacher/ASC	\$59,605.00	8/20/2020
Tricia Lynn Lucie	Special Educator/RHS	\$59,605.00	8/20/2020
Samantha MacEachron	Elementary/RIS	\$40,978.00	8/20/2020
Sara Metzler	Elementary/NW	\$54,017.00	8/20/2020
Lisa Radtke	Special Educator/RMS	\$57,742.00	8/20/2020
Michael Schaeffer	Mathematics/RMS	\$67,055.00	8/20/2020
Alesha Swahn	Social Studies & Independent Studies/STC	\$42,841.00	8/20/2020
Christopher Wetzel	Counselor/PPLC	\$57,742.00	8/20/2020

4. Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Adam Brua	FROM: Elem at RIS – TO: Info. Tech at RIS	8/20/2020
Heidi Campbell-Landon	FROM: Sped. Ed at RIS - TO: Spec. Ed at NE	8/20/2020
Marie Marallo	FROM: Elem. at NE – TO: Elem. at RIS	8/20/2020
Erica Wallstrom	FROM: Teacher – TO: Dir. of Student Engagement at RMS	8/20/2020
Tisa VanDine	FROM: Sped. Ed. at NE- TO: Sped. Ed at RIS	8/20/2020

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement/Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Margaret O’Neill	Administrative Assistant/Tapestry Program	6/30/2020
Evan O’Rourke	Paraeducator/NE	5/5/2020

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Loren Boudreau	Volunteer Coordinator/NE	\$17.50/hr	8/24/2020
Darian Closson	Paraeducator/ASC	\$22,050.00	8/24/2020